

# **This is an official** **CDC Health Update**

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## **UPDATED INTERIM U.S. SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (SARS) CASE DEFINITION**

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The previous CDC SARS case definition (published March 22, 2003) has been updated as follows:

- Areas with documented or suspected community transmission of SARS have been expanded to include all of mainland China in addition to areas previously listed.

### **Suspected Case:**

Respiratory illness of unknown etiology with onset since February 1, 2003, and the following criteria:

- Measured temperature 100.5 °F (>38° C) **AND**
- One or more clinical findings of respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, hypoxia, or radiographic findings of either pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome) **AND**
- Travel within 10 days of onset of symptoms to an area with documented or suspected community transmission of SARS (see list below; excludes areas with secondary cases limited to healthcare workers or direct household contacts) **OR**

Close contact\* within 10 days of onset of symptoms with either a person with a respiratory illness who traveled to a SARS area or a person known to be a suspect SARS case.

**\*Close contact** is defined as having cared for, having lived with, or having direct contact with respiratory secretions and/or body fluids of a patient known to be a suspect SARS case.

### **Areas with documented or suspected community transmission of SARS:**

Peoples' Republic of China (i.e., mainland China and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region); Hanoi, Vietnam; and Singapore

**Note:** Suspect cases with either radiographic evidence of pneumonia or respiratory distress syndrome; or evidence of unexplained respiratory distress syndrome by autopsy are designated "probable" cases by the WHO case definition.